

REMARKS

Status of the Application

Claims 9-23 are pending in the application and have been examined. With this Amendment, Applicant cancels claims 21 and 23.

After entry of this Amendment, claims 9-20 and 22 will be pending in the application.

Claim Rejections

Claims 9-21 and 23 -- 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 9-21 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, and claims 9-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicant cancels claims 21 and 23 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicant respectfully submits that Fig. 1 illustrates a representative configuration of an integrated photodetector 30 which includes a line sensor 32, a stimulating light cut filter 33 and a longer wavelength light cut filter 40, as described at pages 11-12. As described with reference to Fig. 1 on page 12, lines 14-16, "[t]he imaging lens system 31, the line sensor 32, the stimulating light cut filter 33 and the longer wavelength light cut filter 40 form a photodetector 30."

Applicant respectfully submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would understand the described configuration illustrated in Fig. 1 as an integrated photodetector.

Further, Applicant directs the Examiner to page 14, lines 13-14 of the specification which state that the stimulating light projecting system 20 and the photodetector 30 are integrated with each other. Applicant respectfully submits that this portion of the specification provides additional support for an integrated photodetector.

Applicant also notes that the Examiner refers to the disclosure of Mitchell as describing an integrated photodetector, thereby providing evidence that those of ordinary skill in the art would understand the meaning of an integrated photodetector. Thus, based on the Examiner's interpretation of Mitchell, further description in the disclosure of the present application is not required.

Accordingly, the 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraph, rejections of claims 9-20 should be withdrawn.

Claims 9-23 --- 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 9-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2003/0042445 to Mitchell *et al.* ("Mitchell") in view of one of U.S. Pat. No. 6,583,434 to Struye *et al.* ("Struye") and U.S. Pat. No. 5,905,014 to Van de Bergh ("Van de Bergh"). Claims 21 and 23 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 9-20 and 22.

In the Response to Arguments section of the Office Action, the Examiner alleges that it would have been obvious to combine the filter device and detector to produce the claimed integrated photodetector since it would merely be a result of inferences and creative steps that a person of ordinary skill in the art would employ. Applicant respectfully submits that absent the use of impermissible hindsight based on Applicant's disclosure, one of ordinary skill in the art would not combine the filter device and detector to produce the claimed integrated photodetector as evidenced by the lack of prior art disclosing the integrated photodetector.

With regard to claim 9, the combination of Mitchell, Struye and Van de Bergh does not disclose or suggest at least wherein the filter device and the detector comprise an integrated photodetector, as recited in the claim.

Mitchell is directed to an apparatus "for reading a latent image stored on a storage layer radiation screen" which includes "optics for collecting a region of light emitted by a lateral strip of the screen excited by the elongated region of excitation light, and an elongated pixilated sensor array positioned to capture from the optics the region of light emitted by the screen" (Abstract). Mitchell, however, does not provide an enabling disclosure or suggestion for at least the claimed integrated photodetector. Neither Struye nor Van de Bergh remedy the deficiencies of Mitchell.

Both Van de Bergh and Struye are directed to the composition of phosphors in a radiation image storage panel, and both references are silent as to the above-noted claimed features of an integrated photodetector.

Thus, absent the guidance provided by Applicant's disclosure, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to make the combination attempted by the Examiner.

Further, even if the references were combined as suggested by the Examiner, the combined references would not disclose or suggest all of the claimed features. Accordingly, claim 9 and its dependent claims and claim 22 are patentable over the combination of Mitchell and Van de Bergh or Struye.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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